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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/596,737	04/16/2007	Shigeru Suzuki	59463US005	9976
32692	7590	06/30/2008	EXAMINER	
3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY			NGUYEN, CHAU N	
PO BOX 33427				
ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2831	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			06/30/2008	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

LegalUSDocketing@mmm.com
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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/596,737	SUZUKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Chau N. Nguyen	2831	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 22 June 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/17/07</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Osmani et al. (6,472,600).

Osmani et al. (Figure 9) discloses a slidingly detachable core member for use within an elastic tube (1), comprising a hollow cylindrical body (4a, 4b) and a sliding material (6) associated with said body for reducing friction between said body and an elastic tube encompassing said body, characterized in that: an extension (21) is provided in said body and extends outward, to transmit external force, for detachment of said body from the elastic tube, to said body (re claim 1).

Osmani et al. also discloses that said sliding material includes a sheet-like sliding member arranged on an outer peripheral surface of said body (re claim 2), said sliding member is formed separately from said body and attached to said body (re

claim 3), and a cold shrink tube unit comprises the sliding detachable core member as claimed in claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al. (WO 95/11542).

Nakamura et al. discloses a slidingly detachable core member for use within an elastic tube, comprising a hollow cylindrical body (31a) and a sliding material (31b) associated with the body for reducing friction between the body and the elastic tube. Nakamura et al. also discloses the sliding material including a sheet-like sliding member arranged on an outer peripheral surface of the body (re claim 2), the sliding member comprising a film with self-sliding property arranged to be folded on the outer peripheral surface of the body in a condition where the body is placed in an operable position to be encompassed within the elastic tube, the film being shaped to substantially cover a working region, encompassed within the

elastic tube, in the outer peripheral surface of the body placed in the operable position (re claim 4), and the film including cutouts (perforated) for locally exposing the working region of the outer peripheral surface of the body (re claim 5). Nakamura et al. does not disclose an extension being provided in the body and extended outward to the body (re claim 1). Osmani et al. discloses a core member (4a, 4b) comprising a body and an extension (27, Figure 12) being provided in the body and extended outward to the body. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide the body of Nakamura et al. with an extension as taught by Osmani et al. for removing the body from the elastic tube.

5. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Osmani et al. in view of Mirebeau et al. (EP 637117).

Osmani et al. discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for the body including a plurality of plate-like elements assembled together to form a hollow cylindrical body and the extension joining the plate-like elements shiftably relative to each other. Mirebeau et al. (Figure 3) discloses a core member comprising a body which includes a plurality of plate-like elements (21-24) assembled together to form a hollow cylindrical body and an extension (60) joining the plate-like elements shiftably relative to each other. It would have been obvious

to one skilled in the art to use the core member as taught by Mirebeau et al. for the core member (4a, 4b in Figure 1) of Osmani et al. to ease the step of inserting the core member in the elastic tube since the core member of Mirebeau et al. is a one-piece element.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chau N. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-1980. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego F.F. Gutiérrez can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext 31. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Chau N Nguyen/

Chau N Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2831